

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 (ISO) W

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P R 300130Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 291

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCPAC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10254

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 1165A./ GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: DELHI 10135

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BEGIN SUMMARY: GOI CENSORS CUT A STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR KAUL IN WASHINGTON PREDICTING AN EARLY END TO THE EMERGENCY AND CRITICIZING FOREIGN REPORTING IN GENERAL AND THE WASHINGTON POST SPECIFICALLY. OPPOSITION MORALE IN MUCH OF THE COUNTRY APPEARS LOFXYEM LAE CONGRESS PARTY LEADERSHIP IS FORMULATING POLICIES CALLING FOR CLOSER CONGRESS PARTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. CENSORS HAVE DECLARED THE JULY 29 ISSUE OF THE DMK DAILY MURASOLI "OBJECTIONABLE" AND SEIZED IT FROM THE NEWSTANDS. THE JULY 26 DEMONSTRATIONS IN GUJARAT APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ATTRACTING CROWDS IN DISTRICT SEATS AROUND THE STATE AS WELL AS IN AHMEDABAD. ONE MORE OPPOSITION MP WAS ARRESTED. THE CONGRESS PARTY WEEKLY SOCIALIST INDIA REPORTS RAILROAD PUNCTUALITY HAS PICKED UP FROM 69.9 PER CENT TO 90.4 PER CENT. END SUMMARY.

1. A PORTION OF THE JULY 30 AP STORY (CARRIED BY UNI) REPORTING AMBASSADOR KAUL'S JULY 30 SPEECH TO A GATHERING OF US NEWSMEN IN WASHINGTON WAS CUT BY THE CENSOR FOLLOWING A FIRST RUN ON THE TICKERS. THE PORTION CUT IS IN PARA 2 BELOW.

2. "ASKED HOW LONG THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RETAIN THE MEASURES, MR KAUL, SAID, " WITHIN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LIFT THE EMERGENCY."

"HE WAS QUESTIONED AT LENGTH ABOUT GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD DISSEMINATION OF INACCURATE STORIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. CREATING FALSE IMPRESSIONS OF THE INDIAN REALITY ABROAD WHICH, IN TURN, ADVERSELY AFFECTED INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

"HE SINGLED OUT THE WASHINGTON POST FOR MAKING 'RIDICULOUS REPORTS, FALSE REPORTS AND MALICIOUS REPORTS'."

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3. OPPOSITION: THOUGH THE CIRCULATION OF UNDERGROUND PAMPHLETS, OPPOSITION STATEMENTS AND CRITICAL FOREIGN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE EMERGENCY IS INCREASING OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT OPPOSITION MORALE IS LOW. THE DETENTION OF NEARLY ALL TOP OPPOSITION LEADERS, THE THREAT OF ARREST AND INDEFINITE IMPRISONMENT, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF ADJUSTING TO "UNDERGROUND" POLITICS

HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SITUATION. BOMBAY CONGEN REPORTS THAT THEIR OPPOSITION SOURCES EXPRESS DIS-APPOINTMENT OVER THE LACK OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS AND GENERAL DISINCLINATION AMONG THEIR FOLLOWERS TO COURTPARREST. IN BOMBAY AND MAHARASHTRA, OPPOSITION CIRCLES ARE PLANNING NO FURTHER ACTIVITY UNTIL AFTER THE SUPREME COURT HAS DECIDED MRS GANDHI'S APPEAL. (COMMENT: BOMBAY CONGEN'S OBSERVATIONS ON BOMBAY-MAHARASHTRA GENERALLY CHARACTERIZE OPPOSITION ATTITUDES IN MOST OF THE COUNTRY, EXCEPT FOR THE OPPOSITION-RUN STATES OF TAMIL NADU AND GUJARAT. WE HAVE HEARD THAT EVEN IN GUJARAT, "PEOPLES FRONT" LEADERS HAVE MADE NO PLANS TO FOLLOW UP THEIR JULY 26 STATEWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS.)

4. CONGRESS: OUR SOURCES IN CONGRESS AND SCATTERED NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE CONGRESS PARTY LEADERSHIP IS DRAWING UP PLANS FOR AN ACTION-ORIENTED YOUTH CADRE PROGRAM TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOI SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS. THOUGH THE IDEA IS NOTHING NEW, IT IS NOW BEING EXPRESSED WITH A MORE DETERMINED RING. ONE RELIABLE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAFF STATES THAT 25 MAN UNIFORMED CONGRESS YOUTH TEAMS WITH QUASILEGAL POWERS WILL BE FORMED IN EVERY DISTRICT. THE CONGRESS PARTY-LINKED WEEKLY CURRENT RECENTLY CARRIED A TRAVANDRUM-DATELINED STORY ANNOUNCING THAT THE KERALA STATE YOUTH CONGRESS PLANS TO ORGANIZE "YOUTH VIGILANCE SQUADS" TO MONITOR GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PROGRAMS. A TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE DATELINED BHAPAL REPORTS THAT THE MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT WILL CREATE "DEVELOPMENT" COMMITTEES DOWN TO THE SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL COMPOSED OF MPS, MLAS, PUBLIC

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LEADERS "WHO ACCEPT THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM", AND MEMBERS OF ALL THE ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE. (COMMENT: IT APPEARS THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP IS STILL FORMULATING ITS POLICY FOR PARTY-GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY RELATIONS. AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT THAT WILL BE A CLOSER FORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM THAN HERETOFORE.)

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P R 300130Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 292

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10254

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. SOUTH INDIA. A HEADING "LONG LIVE AIR" (ALL INDIA RADIO)

ON FRONT PAGE OF YESTERDAY'S DMK ORGAN MURASOLI,

WAS APPARENTLY TOO MUCH FOR THE GOI CENSOR

IN TAMIL NADU. COPIES OF MURASILI WERE SEIZED FROM NEWS

STANDS IN THE CITY ON 7/29 AND THE MADRAS POLICE COMMISSIONER

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ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT "THE PAPER CARRIED

SOME HEADLINES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED OBJECTIONABLE." JULY

30 MURASOLI APPEARS AS USUAL, AND CARRIES NO MENTION OF THIS INCIDENT. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST ACTION OF ANY KIND IN TAMIL NADU AGAINST MURASOLI THAT WE ARE AWARE OF SINCE IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY.)

6. RISING SUN, DMK'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY (EDITED BY MURASOLI MARAN, MP) PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI IN ITS JULY 25 ISSUE, UNDER HEADING "NO REGRETS IF THE CONGRESS GOES FROM THE CENTER -- KARUNANIDHI." WHEN ASKED HIS "VIEW REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF THE RULING CONGRESS FROM THE CENTER," KARUNANIDHI REPLIED, "I WILL NOT HAVE ANY REGRETS IF IT IS REMOVED." ASKED ABOUT PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, KARUNANIDHI REPLIED, "GENERALLY SPEAKING, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY ARE SYNONYMOUS. BUT I CANNOT ACCEPT THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PARLIAMENT AS PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY, RISING SUN ALSO QUOTES FROM KARUNANUDHI'S SPEECH CALLING FOR GREATER STATE AUTONOMY, "I CANNOT BLAME THE PM FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION" (LEADING TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMERGENCY)..." UNLESS THE CONSTITUTION IS SUITABLY AMENDED TO GRANT FULL AUTONOMY TO STATES AND JOINT RULE AT THE CENTER THE COUNTRY IS BOUND TO FACE FREQUENT RECURRENCE OF SITUATIONS SUCH AS THE PRESENT ONE." RISING SUN JULY 25 CARRIES CARTOONS MILDLY CRITICAL OF EMERGENCY.

7. GUJARAT: A.N. BUCH, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE TEXTILE LABOR ASSOCIATION, AHMEDABAD TOLD AN EMBOFF JULY 30, THAT FIFTY TO SIXTY THOUSAND PARTICIAPTED IN THE JULY 26 DEMONSTRATION AT GUJARAT. HE PERSONALLY WAS IN BARODA WHERE HE STATED JANATA FRONT DEMONSTRATION ATTRACTED TEN THOUSAND. BUCH SAID SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD THROUGHOUT GUJARAT STATE.

8. PARLIAMENT: WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT JANA SANGH MP (LOK SABHA) NARANDRA SINH, WHO IS ALSO THE MAHARAJA OF PANNA (MADHYA PRADESH), WAS ARRESTED IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 26.

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9. A GOI SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT PARLIAMENT WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST 5. THE GOI'S DESIRE TO PASS SOME KIND OF URBAN LAND CEILING BILL AND A BILL NULLIFYING THE ELECTION LAW PENALTY ARE AMONG THE RUMORED REASONS FOR THE EXTENSION.

10. RAILROADS RUNNING ON TIME? THE CONGRESS PARTY WEEKLY SOCIALIST INDIA REPORTS THAT THE PUNCTUALITY OF RAILWAYS IMPROVED FROM 69.9 PER CENT DURING THE PERIOD

ENDING JUNE 30 TO 90.4 PERCENT DURING THE FIVE DAYS
ENDING JULY 15. THOSE WHO RETAIN MEMORIES OF INDIAN
TRAIN STATIONS MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT AT LEAST
IN DELHI THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE DEPOPULATION OF
THESE UNIQUE REPOSITORIES OF BUSTLING HUMANITY. UNI-
FORMED GUARDS ASSURE THAT ONLY TICKETED TRAVLERS GET
ON. STRICTURES AGAINST "CAMPING OUT" ON PLATFORMS HAVE
DISCOURAGED THE TRADITIONAL MASS OF SQUATTERS. IN PER-
SPECTIVE, THE SCENE IS EERILY UN-INDIAN. CONGEN CALCUTTA-
HOW ABOUT HOWRAH?
SAXBE

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